

Wolf Pack exemplifies excellence

By Maj. Kerri Cole
8th Services Squadron commander

After 11 months at the “Kun” I’m amazed by the sense of dedication, pride in mission accomplishment and sincere professionalism of all 3,000 Wolf Pack members - military and civilian! This place has forever changed me, and I have often asked myself, “Why? What makes this place different?”

It boils down to excellence...excellence in all we do, literally!
In the mid-1990s the Air Force coined three core values - Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do - and has worked hard to build them into our organizational culture ever since. These values have added meaning to what we’re about as a military.

But, I have to tell you, I don’t think I’ve ever seen “Excellence in all we do” epitomized as much as I’ve seen it at the “Kun.”

In a speech to the Air Force Honor Guard graduation at Bolling Air Force Base, Md., in November 1999, I think Carol DiBattiste, former undersecretary of the Air Force, coined our modern dilemma best when she said, “The great tragedy in today’s convenient world is that too many people resign themselves to just getting by.” She continued to say, much like the Wolf says, “... I’d rather make my days count than simply count my days.”

Kunsan bonds together regularly to make the mission happen, whether its building long-term construction programs and laying plans for our Wolf Pack community, helping the local community clean up mud and muck following 23 inches of rain last September, or seeking out alternate lodging facilities for 22 Marines recently who were desperately needed to complete a mission despite the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General team occupying our regular facilities.

The Wolf Pack bonds, no matter what! That’s excellence!

I’ve watched our partners in the post office work their fingers to the bone during the Christmas holiday season to get our much-loved goodies to us by working every day for a week, then prepared for a March PACAF operational readiness inspection, which was immediately followed by a postal inspection that was nearly a bust the year prior, yet they garnered an “Excellent” rating on

this year’s inspection—that’s excellence!
Also, our civil engineers have repaired frequent waterline breaks and power outages during all hours of the night. They’ve helped support visits by more than 600 distinguished visitors this past year by painting, mowing grass and numerous “self-help” projects. They led the way by teaching the Wolf Pack the new contingency operations for chemical warfare and helped lead the 8th Fighter Wing to an “Excellent” in the Operational Readiness Inspection—that’s excellence!

What’s more, security forces have lived in defensive fighting positions for days on end with our ready augmentees, ate more Meals, Ready to Eat than most of us care to count, sweated until they thought they couldn’t sweat any more, and felt the cold so bitterly they wondered if they’d ever warm up. But, they kept charging to keep the FOAL EAGLE and PACAF IG opposing forces at bay without a single complaint. They’ve given up more Friday afternoons and weekends to stave off protestors at our gates and fence line and tolerated thrown tomatoes and other things the rest of us are oblivious to. They’ve watched over us all through numerous green bean and brown bean trips to A-Town, all to keep us safe and to return us to base in one piece—that’s excellence!

The operations and logistics folks turned jets, loaded ammunition and converted to night flying operations, often in the wee hours of the nights as we all slept! They constantly prepare and train to ensure our adversaries stay north and that we’re ready when our nation calls on us—that’s excellence!

And, not only does the medical group take care of us by continuing to offer appointments during the daytime as we expect, but even into the nights and weekends like no other base (at least that I’ve experienced). Our Med Dogs take readiness and fitness seriously with their regular regime, and stretch the envelope with their innovative patient decontamination operations—that’s excellence!

A former secretary of the Air Force said that excellence means doing our best in everything we’re responsible for and maintaining a passion for continuous improvement and innovation, which includes meeting customer needs and working together on the basis of trust and mutual respect. I see the Wolf Pack in every word of that statement!

I see my own squadron, the 8th Services Squadron, not only striving for continuous improvement, but also focusing on people-our most critical resource. We often talk about our mission in terms of quality of life.

However, retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric Benken took the “touchy feely” out of quality of life when he said, “Excellence encompasses many things, among which is the care of the resources of our nation, the most treasured of which are the lives of those who serve. Doing the very best you can is not just a professional obligation, it’s a moral one as well.”

I regularly watch the 270 men and

women of the 8th SVS give their all, and then some more, to make life at the Wolf Pack easier, more enjoyable and team oriented!

Like so many of their 8th Fighter Wing teammates, they don’t count the hours in their days, how long they have left on their tour, or how long they’ve been employed (for our civilians), but rather they work to make their efforts count by making a difference, a visible and lasting difference—that exemplifies excellence!

In a little less than a month, I depart Kunsan to assume command at the largest services squadron in Air Combat Command. It’s my hope that I’ll take the “Kun” with me, particularly the warrior spirit and the drive for excellence! I’ve seen what a few people can do to make a difference and it’s awesome!

My challenge to every Wolf Pack member is that each of you look at what makes the “Kun” great and take those things to your next duty location.

The Air Force needs more of the excellence that we routinely deliver and take for granted at the Wolf Pack.

I’m proud to have served with such an awesome group and feel blessed to have been impressed by the hunger, mission and sense of team that abounds here!

Excellence...is defined by the Wolf Pack!

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Maj. Kerri Cole
8th Services Squadron commander

Commander’s Hotline

The commander’s hotline is your direct line of communication between me and the Wolf Pack. It’s one of several means of helping to resolve concerns and to get my response to comments and questions. As a general rule, I ask you to contact the agency involved first, but if you are not satisfied, call the hotline at 782-5284, e-mail the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office or e-mail me directly.



Col. Burt Field
8th Fighter Wing commander

Who to call	
Base exchange.....	782-4520
Chapel.....	782-4300
Civil engineer squadron customer service.....	782-5318
Commissary manager.....	782-4144
Computer help desk.....	782-2666
Fitness center.....	782-4026
Housing office.....	782-4088
Inspector General.....	782-4850
IDEA office.....	782-4020
Law enforcement desk.....	782-4944
Legal assistance.....	782-4283
Military equal opportunity.....	782-4055
Military pay.....	782-5574
Military personnel flight customer service.....	782-5276
Medical patient advocate.....	782-4014



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